From: Russell Johnson
Sent: Wednesday, April 05, 2006 9:10 PM
To: Public Hearing
Subject: Enough Wal-Mart Already

When is enough enough?

I have had the unfortunate opportunity to watch the community in which I
grew up gradually fade into the sorry state of empty streets, broken windows
and abandoned buildings. It pains me to see the people I love struggle to
get by in a declining economic environment brought on by low wages and
deminishing employment opportunties. It hurts me deep to see the people I
love walk into that store and buy sub-standard merchendise priced
atrifically low because they lack the financial wherewithall to do anything
else.

I travel a bit and I have seen so many situations similar to my own. From
Georgia to Vermont to Texas and many points in between Walmart has squeezed
the life out of our towns, the profit out of our businesses and the purpose
out of our lives. Gone is our sense of community. Gone are our coffee shops
and diners. Gone are the events that were at the center of all that happened
on our busy little main street.

In many cases I have noticed that the only remaining vestige of a once
thriving community is the bank and the post office. I suppose it is only
fitting that Walmart should complete it's systmatic attack on our nation by
taking the banks next. I am sad, very sad.

Our goverment makes a living passing laws that protect us from ourselves.
Maybe they need to step up and take on something truly important and tackle
Walmart. Otherwise, I fear, we will have no choice but to spend, and save,
our pecunious wage at the company store. Who will help us then.

Enough Already! The need to act is urgent, the cause is just and the time is now, please, before it is too late.

Russell Johnson

PS> When I say prices are kept artifically low it is because Walmart is bringing illegal workers into the community to work at substandard wages, without benefits. They also weild such power over their suppliers they force them to do the same by dictating pricing policy and margin thresholds.